

Evaluation of HIV Prevention Initiatives:

Uses of Data from Publicly-funded HIV Counseling/Testing Sites in Louisiana

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Overview of HIV Counseling/Testing Program

- Administered by the Louisiana Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program (1989)
- Confidential and anonymous testing
- Approximately 55,000 tests annually
- Multiple testing venues statewide
 - Parish Health Units (Prenatal, FP, STD, TB)
 - Primary Health Care Clinics
 - Substance Abuse Treatment Programs
 - Community Based Organizations

Characteristics of Individuals Accessing C/T Services

- Between March 1, 2001 - October 31, 2001
 - 34,700 tests processed
 - 61% African-American
 - 68% ages 20-39
 - 58% women

Data Collected from C/T

- Locally developed C/T form
 - identifying info for confidential tests
 - risk
 - sex
 - race/ethnicity
 - age
 - zip code
 - site type (prenatal, FP, SA, STD, CBO, etc.)
 - post test counseled
 - referral to care (2001)
 - pregnancy information (2001)

Strengths of Data

- Accessible
- Timely
- Includes test result and referral
- Captures information to target interventions
 - individual follow up for positives
 - zip code, age group, risk factor, etc.
- Can link with HIV surveillance data system
- Statewide - data available from all parishes

Limitations of Data

- Generalizability - low SES, no insurance
- No information on patients who refuse test
- Not all pregnant women access prenatal care via health units, closing of some PHU
- Pregnancy “check box” on post-test